

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-03 FPC-01 H-01 INR-10

INT-01 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-03 SP-02 SS-14 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-04 IO-03 AF-04 ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-06 DRC-01 /113 W

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R 101721Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7607

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EEC

SUBJECT: SIMONET'S VIEWS ON TALKS WITH OAPEC SEC GEN AND ON ECG/IEP

REF: EC BRUSSELS 7627

1. SUMMARY. EC VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET PLAYED DOWN THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS MEETING OCTOBER 9 WITH OAPEC SECRETARY GENERAL ATTIGA. HE SAID THE INITIATIVE CAME FROM ATTIGA. WHILE THERE WILL BE A RETURN VISIT BY SIMONET TO KUWAIT, NO INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THIS CHANNEL IS ANTICIPATED. ON THE IEP HE SAID ECG CHAIRMAN

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DAVIGNON INTENDS TO SEND A LETTER TO THE COMMISSION ASKING FOR ITS VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAM. AT AN ENERGY COMMITTEE

MEETING ON OCTOBER 9 CHAIRED BY SIMONET, THE EIGHT ECG COUNTRIES PLUS SIMONET HIMSELF REACTED FAVORABLY TO THE IEP AND TO COMMISSION PARTICIPATION AS AN OBSERVER. THE FRENCH REFRAINED FROM COMMENT. END SUMMARY

2. FOLLOWING UP ON SIMONET'S UNDERTAKING TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN LAST WEEK TO BRIEF US ON TALKS WITH OAPEC SEC GEN ATTIGA (REFTEL), AMBASSADOR GREENWALD CALLED ON SIMONET OCTOBER 10. GREENWALD NOTED THAT THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING THE MEETING (TEXT BEING SENT SEPTTEL) SAID THE INVITATION HAD BEEN ISSUED BY SIMONET AND THAT IT WAS EXPECTED THAT "PERIODIC RELATIONS" WOULD FOLLOW. GREENWALD ASKED HOW SIMONET VIEWED THE COMMISSION'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OAPEC. SIMONET MINIMIZED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VISIT. HE SAID IN FACT THE INITIATIVE CAME FROM ATTIGA WHEN HE AND SIMONET MET AT AN ENERGY MEETING IN LONDON IN MAY. ATTIGA ASKED THEN IF HE COULD VISIT THE COMMISSION AND SIMONET COULD NOT REASONABLY REFUSE. HOWEVER, SIMONET ADMITTED THAT THE MEETING SERVED HIS PURPOSES ALSO. THE COMMISSION SENT A PAPER TO THE COUNCIL LAST JANUARY WHICH SPOKE OF RELATIONS WITH THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES. THIS CONTACT WITH OAPEC WILL PERMIT SIMONET TO SHOW THE COUNCIL THAT THE COMMISSION HAS NOT BEEN WHOLLY INACTIVE IN THIS AREA. SIMONET INDICATED HE WAS WELL AWARE OF US SENSITIVITIES ABOUT COMMUNITY CONTACT WITH THE ARABS ON OIL SUPPLY AND PRICE AND ASSURED GREENWALD THAT HIS MEETING WITH ATTIGA SHOULD NOT CAUSE THE US ANY CONCERN. IT HAD BEEN MAINLY A MINI-LECTURE BY SIMONET ON HOW THE COMMUNITY AND ITS INSTITUTIONS FUNCTIONED; HE REFERRED TO THE RETURN VISIT TO KUWAIT AS "SIGHTSEEING."

3. SIMONET SAID THAT THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS AT THE ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 9 WHICH HE CHAIRED HAD BEEN A PRESENTATION BY ECG CHAIRMAN DAVIGNON. DAVIGNON READ A DRAFT LETTER HE PROPOSED TO SEND TO THE COMMISSION ASKING FOR THE COMMISSION'S VIEWS ON THE IEP: IS IT A GOOD THING FOR THE COMMUNITY, IS IT COMPATIBLE WITH THE TREATY OF ROME, AND WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE COMMISSION PLAY--SPECIFICALLY, SHOULD IT SEEK OBSERVER STATUS? SIMONET SAID THE EIGHT ECG COUNTRIES AND HE HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO DAVIGNON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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BUT THE FRENCH, WHOSE MEMBERSHIP IN THE ENERGY COMMITTEE IS WEAK ANYWAY, REFRAINED FROM MAKING ANY COMMENT, ON THE GROUND THAT IT WAS A POLITICAL ISSUE. SIMONET SAID THAT AFTER THE MEETING HE GOT AN IRATE PHONE CALL FROM FRENCH PERM REP BURIN DES ROZIERES WHO SAID THAT THE IEP WAS A MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION BY COREPER, NOT BY THE ENERGY COMMITTEE. SIMONET SEEMED UNCONCERNED BY THE RUBBISH.

4. SIMONET BELIEVES THAT THE FRENCH ARE STILL UNDECIDED AS TO HOW TO DEAL WITH THE IEP. HE WILL BE TALKING TO SAUVAG-

NARGUES AND OTHERS IN PARIS ON OCTOBER 11 AND HOPES HE CAN GET A CLEARER READING.

5. COMMENT. THE BELGIAN PRESS CORPS AND PARTICULARLY THE DAILY INFORMATION BULLETINS ON COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS AGENCE EUROPE, HAVE BEEN PLAYING UP THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COMMISSION-OAPEC CHANNEL AS A WAY OF GETTING AROUND THE PROSCRIPTION AGAINST DISCUSSING OIL MATTERS IN THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE CONTEXT. SIMONET'S COMMENTS REFLECTED NO SUCH DEVIOUS MOTIVATION. GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, PRESS CONFERENCES, PRICES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU07919
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740289-0402
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741057/aaaabwlo.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: EC BRUSSELS 7627
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIMONET'S VIEWS ON TALKS WITH OAPEC SEC GEN AND ON ECG/IEP
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EEC, OAPEC, (SIMONET), (ATTIGA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005